Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Project Summaries – 2023 Funding Cycle

May 26, 2023

Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits. The 2023 application deadline was April 26, 2023. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received 10 complete applications requesting a total of $28,987,945 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are project summaries for complete grant applications received by April 26, 2023 for the 2023 Water Project Grants and Loans funding cycle. The project summaries are adapted from submitted project applications. The application summaries are listed in alphabetical order and page numbers listed below.

Next Steps

OWRD is soliciting public comment on the Water Projects Grants and Loans applications through 5:00 pm on July 25, 2023. Information on how to submit a public comment is available here. Public comments submitted on applications will be considered by the Technical Review Team (TRT). The TRT will evaluate applications and make a funding recommendation to the Water Resources Commission. OWRD will post the TRT funding recommendation for an additional public comment period. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is November 2023.

More Information

If you have questions please contact the Grant Coordinator, Adair Muth, at 971-301-0718 or OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov.

2023 Applications

Arnold Irrigation District Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project - Phase 2

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Arnold Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $2,903,667 Grant

Total Project Cost: $12,458,667

Project Summary: The proposed project would enclose over four miles (23,175 linear feet) of open canal into leak-free HDPE piping with the goal of restoring 12.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) of streamflow to the Deschutes Basin. The conserved water would be protected instream for the Deschutes Basin immediately after the construction concludes. Specifically, the conserved water would be legally protected instream from the Arnold diversion flowing to North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The proposed project is part of a four-phase system improvement plan that will eventually restore and protect 32.5 cfs to the basin by enclosing the Arnold Main Canal into piping. The proposed project, phase 2, would improve conditions for native and ESA-listed species, improve public safety, and provide a resilient solution for water supply reliability in the Deschutes Basin.

Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration - Group 6b

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Tumalo Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $2,190,726 Grant

Total Project Cost: $5,465,625

Project Summary: The proposed project would restore 1.1 cfs of water to Tumalo Creek during the irrigation season and Crescent Creek in the winter by enclosing 11,261 linear feet of open canal and laterals. Approximately 0.85 cfs of the conserved water would be legally protected instream through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program and would result in improved temperature conditions and water quantity for ESA-listed species and native fish and wildlife. The proposed project encloses a portion of the open canal referred to as the Columbia Southern Canal. The pipe follows the existing canal alignment and would be installed in a compacted trench with 3 feet of cover to protect from freezing and damage. The surface would be restored with soil and seeding where appropriate.

Kingman Lateral First Mile Piping

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Owyhee Irrigation District

County: Malheur

Funding Requested: $2,000,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $5,100,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would pipe at least the first 5,900 feet of the King Lateral canal from the head gates to the tunnel of the canal. The Kingman Lateral has a 130 cfs maximum canal flow and the canal losses are approximately 10 cfs in the first five miles. The proposed project would focus on the first segment of the canal because of slope instability in this area and much of the water losses are associated with this segment of the canal. The goals of the project are to conclusively address water loss, address water quality concerns, and maintain deliveries to agricultural producers. Proposed activities include final design, piping 5,900 feet of canal, and installing a new headworks structure.

McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Ochoco Irrigation District & Deschutes River Conservancy

County: Crook

Funding Requested: $4,063,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $45,131,286

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project is to permanently protect the natural hydrograph of McKay Creek from river miles 6-12, providing more early summer streamflow for steelhead fry to transition to juveniles and migrate to suitable summer rearing habitats, lowering stream temperatures, and eliminating the need for diversion structures that create passage barriers for migrating fish. The project would construct a pump station, 6-mile pipeline, and associated District and on-farm infrastructure to deliver reliable irrigation water to 17 farms and ranches and approximately 685 acres adjacent to McKay Creek. As part of the project, irrigators along McKay Creek would trade their privately held water rights, sourced from McKay Creek, for water rights held by Ochoco Irrigation District, sourced from Prineville Reservoir. In exchange for reliable stored water, these irrigators would transfer 11.2 cfs of McKay Creek water rights instream. The project supports Crook County's agricultural economy and supports a long-term effort to restore the natural hydrograph in McKay Creek and benefit steelhead populations in the Crooked River and its tributaries.

Mission Area Wastewater Treatment and Reuse

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

County: Umatilla

Funding Requested: $5,000,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $41,250,000

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project is to create an innovative and tribally sovereign wastewater reuse system that reduces withdrawal from the regional aquifer for irrigation purposes. This would be achieved by creating four wetland/storage pond structures to store recycled water for reuse. This recycled water would be used for the irrigation of the Wildhorse Resort and Casino's landscaping/golf course instead of using potable water withdrawn from the regional aquifer. Wildhorse Golf Course consumes approximately 300 acre-feet (ac-ft) of water annually, which is approximately 30 percent of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's total permitted consumptive use allowance. This proposed project would achieve this goal by allowing the capture of approximately 300 ac-ft of recycled water annually for reuse on the golf course and other landscaping areas, significantly reducing water withdrawn from the regional aquifer for irrigation purposes.

North Unit Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization and Winter Flow Augmentation Project – Segment 1-2

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: North Unit Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $5,075,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $20,300,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would enclose 34,040 linear feet (LF) of Lateral 43, a 113,167 LF open porous irrigation canal, into leak-free HDPE piping to conserve 5.3 cfs of water previously lost to seepage. One hundred percent of the conserved water would be legally protected instream through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The water conservation achieved by this project would (1) eliminate water delivery and operations inefficiencies; (2) improve water quality; (3) improve and stabilize agricultural production through water supply reliability; (4) improve conditions for ESA-listed species including the Oregon spotted frog.

Oanna & Yasui Sublateral Efficiency Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: East Fork Irrigation District

County: Hood River

Funding Requested: $1,499,875 Grant

Total Project Cost: $3,800,000

Project Summary: The primary goals of the proposed project are to increase summer stream flows for threatened salmon and steelhead and increase long-term irrigation water reliability. These goals would be achieved by replacing 15,700 feet of non-pressure rated pipe (primarily wood and unreinforced concrete) and eight open concrete water boxes along the East Fork Irrigation District's Oanna and Yasui sublateral lines with 11,700 feet of HDPE pipe, three large pressure reducing stations, plus six smaller pressure reducing stations. The project would eliminate overflows at the existing water boxes that currently lose an estimated average of 2 cfs of flow, which would have a significant positive impact on spawning and rearing habitat availability for ESA-listed spring Chinook and winter steelhead. During drought years, having the ability to deliver water more efficiently would increase reliability and the resiliency of local agriculture to a changing climate. The project would legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

Sarthou South Fork Little Butte Creek Irrigation Efficiency Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

County: Jackson

Funding Requested: $252,177 Grant

Total Project Cost: $315,238

Project Summary: The proposed project would improve irrigation efficiency by upgrading irrigation methods from flood-irrigation to a combination of center-pivot, wheel-lines, and k-pods on 34.7 acres and eliminating 2.26 miles of unlined irrigation ditch by moving the point of diversion 0.9 miles downstream and installing a pump system. The project would improve cattle production by 25% and hay production by 50% while enhancing instream flows for ESA-listed Coho Salmon and other native fishes and supporting recovery actions identified in NOAA's Final Recovery Plan for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon. The project would legally protect 100% of the conserved water instream (approximately 0.164 cfs, 27% of the current water right certificates) in South Fork Little Butte Creek through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The goal of the project is to improve irrigation efficiency and production for the irrigators by upgrading irrigation system infrastructure while supporting streamflow restoration through permanently dedicating 100% of the conserved water instream for the benefit of native fishes.

Water Resiliency Phase 3a - Highway 101 Backbone

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Cannon Beach

County: Clatsop

Funding Requested: $5,053,500 Grant

Total Project Cost: $6,738,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would culminate a multiphasic resiliency project through the construction of a redundant water transmission line ("backbone") along US Highway 101 in Cannon Beach, in the West Fork Elk Creek water basin. This backbone, when combined with the isolation valves and the more resilient water reservoir constructed during earlier phases of this Water Resiliency project, would mitigate seismic damage, and accelerate recovery of the City's water service after seismic events. The proposed project includes a north section, which would provide water transmission to the north side of the city, and a south section, which would serve the south side of the city and connect to the Tolovana Reservoir. The water transmission lines would be constructed using HDPE pipe, and isolation valves, which were installed during Phase 1, would confine ruptures and minimize interruptions.

Well 10 Drilling and Construction

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Milton-Freewater

County: Umatilla

Funding Requested: $950,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $2,655,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would drill a new approximately 1,200-foot-deep municipal water supply well, replacing a recently retired well, for the City of Milton-Freewater in the Walla Walla Subbasin in Umatilla County. The project would improve municipal supply for the City by directly filling the highest pressure zone, replacing an old open-borehole well with new sealed well which will protect the basalt aquifer and help ensure high quality drinking water for the City. The new well would help the City continue to utilize the basalt aquifer system instead of relying upon the over-allocated Walla Walla River during low-flow periods and provide high quality drinking water to over 7,100 users.